

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 299364 TOSEC 320115

53

ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PRS-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 /019 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:REBUTLER:REB

APPROVED BY PA/M:WJDYESS

S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

PA, S/S, S/PRS

----- 060476

O 091552Z DEC 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 299364 TOSEC 320115

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT LEAD EDITORIAL WALL STREET JOURNAL THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, HEADED "THE PALESTINIAN FUTURE."

2. IN THE CURRENT SPECULATION ON NEGOTIATING SIGNALS FROM THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT OF ALL THE LOSERS IN THE LEBANESE CIVIL WAR, THAT GROUP LOST THE MOST. ITS WEAKENED CONDITION MAY INDEED ADVANCE ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS AND PARADOXICALLY IMPROVE THE LOT OF THE THREE MILLION PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, BUT ONLY IF PALESTINIANS AND WESTERN DIPLOMATS ARE NOW READY TO FACE THE REALITY OF THEIR SITUATION.

3. THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION HAS HAD VAST PRETENSIONS, GROTESQUELY INFLATED BY UNITED NATIONS TRUMPERY, TO BE AN INDEPENDENT MOVER AND SHAKER ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE. ALL THOSE PAN-ARAB AND UN RESOLUTIONS NAMING IT "THE SOLE, LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 299364 TOSEC 320115

OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE" ACTUALLY SEEM TO HAVE MADE

ITS LEADERS THINK THEY HAD A SECURE BASE OF POWER. YET

TWO-THIRDS OF ALL PALESTINIANS LIVE IN JORDAN AND ISRAEL, WELL OUT OF PLO CONTROL. AND OF THE OTHER REFUGEES, ONLY THOSE SETTLED IN LEBANON WERE IN ANY SENSE AUTONOMOUS. NOW THIS CONSTITUENCY HAS FALLEN UNDER SYRIAN OCCUPATION AND MAY SHORTLY BE DISARMED. THE PLO WILL PROBABLY NOT DISSOLVE, BUT IT'S HIGHLY LIKELY TO REVERT TO ITS ORIGINAL ROLE AS A PAWN OF THE ARAB STATES IN THEIR INTERNECINE STRUGGLES.

4. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT'S PLAUSIBLE TO ASSUME THAT PLO LEADERS MIGHT PREFER TO LOWER THEIR EXPECTATIONS AND BARGAIN WITH THEIR DEVIL. AFTER ALL, EVEN YASIR ARAFAT'S INNER CIRCLE HAS BEEN OPENLY TALKING OF LATE ABOUT SETTING UP A STATE ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP RATHER THAN TRYING TO LIBERATE ALL OF PALESTINE (I.E., ISRAEL) AT ONCE. BUT IN THE PAST, THEY'VE MEANT THIS AS A TACTICAL STEP, AS A PAUSE TO REGROUP FORCES FOR THE FINAL ABOLITION OF ISRAEL. (SEE, FOR INSTANCE, AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PLO "FOREIGN MINISTER," FAROUK QADUMI, WHICH APPEARED ON THIS PAGE ALMOST EXACTLY TWO YEARS AGO.)

5. IF THE SPIRIT OF THIS PROPOSAL WERE TO CHANGE, HOWEVER, IF SOME PALESTINIANS WERE REALLY READY TO SETTLE FOR HALF A LOAF AND FORMALLY ACKNOWLEDGE ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO ITS PRE-1967 TERRITORY, THEN PEACE TALKS WOULD SUDDENLY BECOME VERY INTERESTING. YET THERE IS SUCH A VAST GAP BETWEEN A FEASIBLE WEST BANK STATE AND THE AMBITION OF THE PLO, THAT IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE MR. ARAFAT IS CONTEMPLATING SO MOMENTOUS A STEP.

6. THE KIND OF WEST BANK STATE THAT MIGHT ACTUALLY BE FORMED WOULD DO LITTLE TO PLACATE THE REFUGEES FROM HAIFA, JAFFA AND SO FORTH, WHOSE CLAIMS ON ISRAEL PROPER MAKES THEM THE PLO'S MOST FERVENT SUPPORTERS. TO ENSURE STABILITY, THE PALESTINIAN ENTITY WOULD HAVE TO BE CLOSELY CONTROLLED BY THE PLO'S BITTEREST ENEMIES, ISRAEL AND JORDAN. GEOGRAPHY ALREADY GIVES THESE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 299364 TOSEC 320115

COUNTRIES A STRANGLEHOLD ON THE WEST BANK ECONOMY, AND THEY ARE SURE TO DEMAND STRICT LIMITS ON ITS POLITICS AND LEVEL OF ARMAMENT. TO SATISFY SUCH CONSTRAINTS, THE PLO WOULD HAVE TO BE ENTIRELY TRANSFORMED, WHICH ALMOST CERTAINLY WOULD INVOLVE THE FURTHER USE OF FORCE.

7. YET SUCH A PLACE WOULD STILL PROVIDE REFUGE AND A CHANCE FOR A STABLE LIFE. NO MATTER HOW CIRCUM-

SCRIBED ITS AUTONOMY, EVEN AS A CANTON IN A FEDERATED
JORDAN, IT WOULD PROVIDE MORE SELF-GOVERNMENT THAN

ANYTHING THE PALESTINIANS NOW KNOW. AND AFTER THE MAS-
SACRES OF JORDAN AND LEBANON, SOME OF THE PALESTINIAN
LEADERS MUST RECOGNIZE THEY HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.
THIS IS THE SORT OF REALISM WHICH AMERICAN POLICY SHOULD
ENCOURAGE. BUT TO DO SO WE WILL HAVE TO REMAIN REALIS-
TIC OURSELVES ABOUT THE DISPARITY BETWEEN PALESTINIAN
EXPECTATIONS AND THEIR LIMITED POSSIBILITIES. END TEXT.
ROBINSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TOSEC, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS, PALESTINE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE299364
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: REBUTLER:REB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760455-0239
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761257/aaaabxgy.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, US, XF, WALL STREET JOURNAL, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006